the country is grossly under utilised for lack of orders;

(b) if so, the percentage of underutilisation of the ITI capacity;

(c) the estimated annual loss being suffered by ITI as a result thereof; and

(d) what are the reasons for lack of orders and what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The capacity is defined in terms of finished products but in telecom sector changes in product mix, technology, level of integration, the stages of the product life cycle etc. very commonly influence the capacity of the project. It is, therefore, difficult to arrive at the exact capacity for various products of the Company. Overall, till last year there has been no under utilisation of capacities but during the current year, mainly due to competition, ITI Ltd. in 4 of its units viz. Rae Bareli, Naini, Electronic City Unit and Bangalore is finding it difficult to get sufficient orders.

(c) ITI Ltd. has been making profits and efforts are on to ensure to avoid any losses.

(d) The main reason for difficulties in getting sufficient orders in the environment of competition. With a view to remain a profit making Company as also to utilise its infrastructure optimally, apart from ungradation of technologies, improving quality to international standards, adopting various cost reduction measures and diversifying the activities to networks, value added services and operating the telecom services, the Ministry has taken a policy decision that the procurement of 30 per cent equipments out of the total requirement by DOT would be earmarked for our own USUs without any concession in respect of price, quality or supply schedule.

Laying of telephone lines on lease basis

902. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications have floated tenders for laying of telephone lines on lease basis recently;

(b) if so, how many companies participated in the bid from within the country and abroad; and

(c) the terms and conditions for laying of phone lines on lease basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A tender for financing of Telecommunication equipments/projects through lease financing or on deferred payment terms was opened on 15-6-1994.

(b) 69 bidders have participated in this tender. Only Indian Registered Companies/Institutions were eligible to participate in the tender.

(c) The terms and conditions for obtaining finance on lease or deferred payment for the above are unedr formulation, based on the offers received and on Department's requirement.

Waiting list for telephone connection in Tamil Nadu

903. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan outlay for communications improvement in Tamil Nadu sector for the year 1994 to 1995;

(b) how many applications are in the waiting list for telephone connections for the year ending 1994 in Madras, Caimbatore, Salem, Dr. Ambedkar District Villupuram, SSR District;